

House Resolution No. 729

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize John Carlton, who is the proud recipient of a 2003 St. Charles County Heroes for Mental Health award; and

Whereas, the Crider Center for Mental Health will honor John Carlton with the Award of Distinction during a special presentation to be held March 7, 2003, at The Columns in St. Charles, Missouri; and

Whereas, a little over a year ago, the State of Missouri faced a large budget deficit and recommendations were made by the Governor to make significant budget cuts to the Missouri Department of Mental Health and borrow funds to pay for the State's remaining community mental health services; and

Whereas, an Editorial Page Staff Writer for the St. Louis Post Dispatch, John Carlton met with mental health advocates, state officials, providers and consumers of mental health and substance abuse services and their families, and wrote a strong series of editorials and articles about what the budget crisis meant to the thousands of Missouri citizens who need mental health and substance abuse services; and

Whereas, one after the other, the editorials and articles appeared and were reproduced around the Show-Me State, proving to be a powerful weapon in the arsenal of grassroots advocacy that convinced the state to take a different path; and

Whereas, although the initial cuts remained, the larger challenge to state funding of community-based services in mental health and substance abuse services was averted; and

Whereas, now that an even larger budget deficit looms over the State of Missouri, John Carlton is ready once again to fight for the rights of Missouri's most vulnerable citizens who are in need of a community-based system of care for mental health and substance abuse services:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty congratulations to John Carlton upon his most worthy receipt of the Award of Distinction, and in wishing him only the very best of success in all his future endeavors; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for John Carlton.

Offered by _____
Representative Carl Bearden
District No. 16

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 729, adopted March 6, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker